



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:
HOWARD BROTHERS SENTENCED ON ROBBERY CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Jay Howard, 24, of Naugatuck, Connecticut, and Jeffrey Howard, 21, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were sentenced by Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro of the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to a sentence of 102 months imprisonment. Each defendant was also sentenced to three years supervised release following their release from prison.

The Howard brothers were indicted on August 29, 2002, on charges relating to the planned robbery of a Portsmouth, New Hampshire, drug store and the planned robbery of an unknown pharmaceutical warehouse, as well as drug conspiracy and gun possession charges. The charges were the result of a two month long investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Portsmouth Police Department. Because of the weapons charges, this case was handled as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

Under the federal sentencing guidelines, the sentence on each of the charges of conviction was 51 to 63 months. The defendants agreed to serve 51 months on each of the robbery conspiracy counts, and further agreed that those sentences be imposed consecutive to each other, for a total sentence of 102 months. As part of a plea agreement reached with the defendants, the government moved to dismiss two other charges relating to a conspiracy to possess a controlled substance and possession of a silencer for a firearm.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "These defendants were participants in plans to commit two robberies that had the potential for significant injury to the citizens of our state. It was only through the exceptional efforts of the dedicated law enforcement agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Portsmouth Police Department that we were successful in thwarting this criminal enterprise. The sentences announced today remove these defendants from society for a significant period of time and are appropriate levels of punishment for the actions actually taken by the defendants." This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.